

Message Text

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42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083527

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PO

SUBJECT:CIVAIR - DOD POSITION ON USE OF LAJES AB BY CIVIL
AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 68402

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED DOD REQUEST THAT WE NOT SUPPORT TWA
IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO SECURE USE OF LAJES AB. DEPT WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REACTION TO FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH DOD
HAS MADE.

2. LAJES AB HOSTS USAF AND USN FACILITIES WHICH ARE IMPOR-
TANT IN DEFENSE OF NORTH ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN. DOD
IS CONCERNED ABOUT INCURRING AN OBLIGATION, UNDER CHICAGO
CONVENTION OR INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES TRANSIT AGREEMENT
TO ALLOW THIRD-COUNTRY USE OF LAJES AB.

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3. 1971 GOP DECISION TO PERMIT TAP SERVICE TO LAJES AB WAS

MET BY US NOTES IN WHICH WE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. MILITARY OPERATIONS WERE TO RETAIN PRIORITY OVER TAP SERVICE;

B. WE RESERVED RIGHT TO SEEK SIMILAR USE OF LAJES BY US

CARRIERS;

C. WE SOUGHT BAN ON THIRD-COUNTRY USE OF LAJES AB;

D. SHOULD GOP BE UNABLE TO LIMIT USE OF LAJES AB, GOP WOULD VOLUNTARILY TERMINATE TAP USE OF LAJES AB.

E. WE SOUGHT AGREEMENT TO HOLD US HARMLESS FROM LIABILITIES ARISING OUT OF TAP USE OF LAJES AB.

4. DOD ASSERTS THEIR CONCURRENCE IN 3B ABOVE WAS ONLY CONCURRENCE IN US USE OF A PLOY TO PERSUADE GOP TO ABANDON TAP SERVICE OR TO MOTIVATE GOP TO CAREFULLY LIMIT CIVIL USE OF LAJES. DOD FEELS THAT BY SUPPORTING USE OF THIS ARGUMENT, IT RETAINS A PREROGATIVE TO CONSIDER ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS ANY US CARRIER'S REQUEST FOR USE OF LAJES AB.

5. DOD CONTENTS THAT (LISBON 1242) WHILE GOP HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR IN LIMITING CIVIL USE OF LAJES AB, GOP WOULD BE UNABLE TO RESIST REQUESTS FOR THIRD-COUNTRY USE IF TWA IS ALLOWED IN. DOD AVERS THAT OPENING OF LAJES AB FOR INTERNATIONAL USE WOULD INTERFERE WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AND CREATE SECURITY PROBLEMS (DUE USE BY SOVIET/ WARSAW PACT AIRCRAFT). SUCH USE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO RESULT IN REQUESTS FOR US MILITARY SUPPORT; OF CIVIL OPERATIONS, WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US MILITARY PERFORMANCE.

6. DOD IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT CONTINUED PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF TWA COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PENDING BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. PAN AM INFORMS DEPT THAT IT HAS FLOWN CHARTERS TO LAJES.

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CAN EMBASSY CONFIRM? KISSINGER

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